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GANESH P

indganeshp@gmail.com

Dr.Rajendran p

SRM Institute of Science and Technology, librarian@ktr.srmuniv.ac.in

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Use of E-Resources by the Faculty Members and Research Scholars of SRM Institute of Science & Technology – Kattankalathur Campus

P.Ganesh

*Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science
SRM University, Chennai*

Dr.P.Rajendran

*Head of the Department, Department of Library & Information Science
SRM University, Chennai*

Abstract

The present study was carried out at SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST). This study was conducted to examine the use of electronic resources and databases, awareness factor, purpose and problems faced while accessing the e-resources subscribed at SRMIST Central Library. For this purpose, a well-structured Questioner method was employed to gather data from the faculty members and research scholars of SRMIST. The result shows that despite the availability of a wide range of e-resources the frequency of their use was low. The reason behind was identified as their lack of awareness & subject coverage.

1. Introduction

Rapid growth in electronic information due to the internet and its related technologies paved an excellent way for information generation, access to information, dissemination, and sharing of knowledge across boundaries. Libraries are also changing into the advanced technological level to meet the demand on them. The advances in networking and communication technology have made the information services available to the users on their desktop. Before the 1990s, it was challenging to find resources and get access to it for research and related information. Nowadays the present cyber world provides plenty of facilities, (like a search engine for each site, search by key terms) to access information for the maximum satisfaction to the user community. Thus the Information and Communication enabled Technology) ICT has brought a revolutionary change giving rise to wide options to handle varied information sources conveniently, and effortlessly. As a result, e-resources have acquired a significant portion of library collections. Therefore, there is a necessity to perform a study on the different aspects of e-resources and issues related to the use of e-resources.

2. SRMIST: A Profile

“SRM Institute of Science and Technology (formerly known as SRM University) has an excellent library for the benefit of students, faculties, and researchers. As one of the best-established libraries according to International Standards, the University Library has a large collection of books covering various branches of Engineering and Technology, Medical and Health Sciences and Science and Humanities and its related fields. The library is nearly

three decades old. It is fully Air Conditioned and automated with RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology. The library well protected with fire alarms and Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Security systems.”

3. The objectives of the Study

1. To find out the various types of e-resources used by faculty members and research scholars at SRMIST.
2. To understand the level of awareness with e-resources among the faculty members and research scholars at SRMIST.
3. To know the purpose of using e-resources by the faculty members and research scholars at SRMIST.
4. To recognize the level of satisfaction among the faculty members and research scholars while using the e-resources
5. To identify the problems faced by the faculty members and research scholars while accessing the e-resources.

4. Scope, Limitations, and Methodology

The scope of the study is restricted only to the faculty members and Research Scholars of SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Katankulathur Campus. In this study, the standard questioner method was used to collect the necessary data. Keeping in view on objectives of the study, a total number of 150 questioners were randomly distributed among the faculty and research scholars and out of that 120 filled questioners were received back as 80% responses.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data collected was analyzed, interpreted, and the same is presented in the following tables (1 to 7).

5.1 The response received from the faculties and research scholars are categorized based on the gender and is given in Table -1

Sl.NO	Gender	Designation		Total (N=120)
		Faculty (N=40)	Research scholars (N=80)	
1	Male	28(70%)	50(62.5%)	78(65%)
2	Female	12(30%)	30(37.5%)	42(35%)

In total 150 questioner distributions, the respondents of Faculty and Research scholars filled in and received consists of 40 Faculty and 80 research scholars. From the above table faculty-wise, male respondents are 28(70%), and Female is 12(30%). In Research scholars, Male are 50 (62.5%), and 30 (37.5%) are Female.

Figure-1 Gender wise Distribution

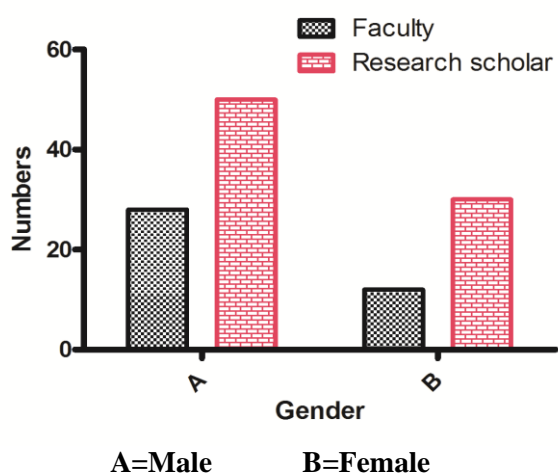
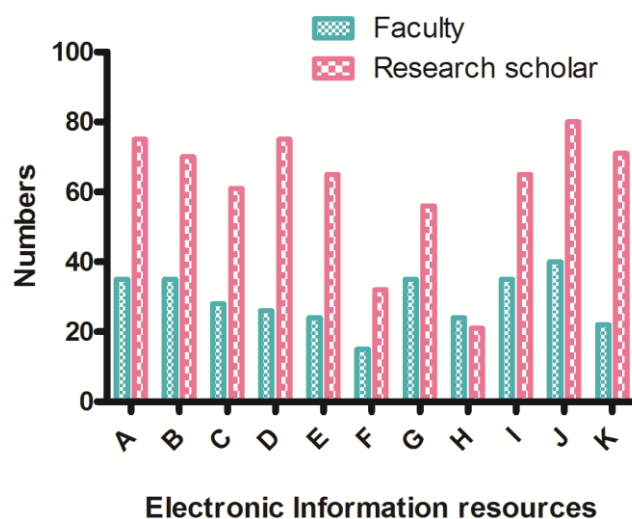


Table -2 Use of e-resources by the respondents has been listed in the table given below:

Sl. No.	Electronic Information resources	Faculty (N=40)	Research scholars (N=80)	Total percentage (N=120)
1	E-Journals	35(87.5%)	75(93.75%)	110(91.6%)
2	E-Books	35(87.5%)	70(87.5%)	105(87.5%)
3	E-Magazine/Newspaper	28(70%)	61(76.25%)	89(74.1%)
4	E-databases	26(65%)	75(93.75%)	101(84.1%)
5	E-Thesis and Dissertations	24(60%)	65(81.25%)	89(74.1%)
6	E-conference proceedings	15(37.5)	32(40%)	47(39.1%)
7	Library OPAC	35(87.5%)	56(70%)	91(75.83%)
8	Institutional repositories	24(60%)	21(26.25%)	45(37.5%)
9	Internet websites	35(87.5%)	65(81.25%)	100(83.3%)
10	E-mail	40(100%)	80(100%)	120(100%)
11	E-Portals/Subject Gateways	22(55%)	71(88.75%)	93(77.5%)

Figure 2: Use of Electronic Information Resources



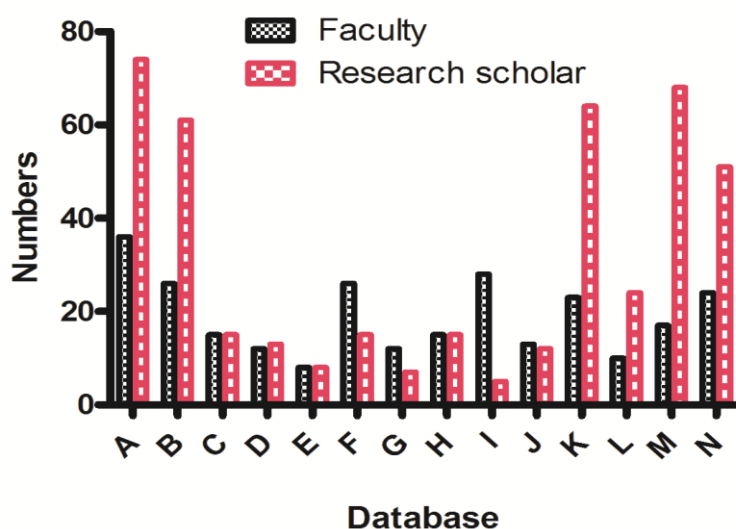
**A=E-Journals, B=E-Books, C=E-Magazine/Newspaper, D=E-databases E=Thesis
& Dissertations, F=conference proceedings, G=Library OPAC,
H= Institutional repositories, I= Internet websites, J= E-mail
K=E-Portals/Subject Gateways**

The use of various types of e-resources by faculty and research scholars of SRMIST has been listed in above table 2. It is observed that both research scholars and the students of about 100% are using e-mail and 91.6% are using e-journals followed by e-Books with 87.5% and e-databases of 84.1 %, Internet websites use was noticed to be 83.3% followed by e-portals 77.5%, Library Online Public Access catalogue 75.8%, e-Thesis 74.1 %,e-magazine 74.1%. The minimum usage by the respondents is e-conference 39.1% and intuitional repositories 37.5%. Table2 shows that maximum utilization from both respondents uses E-Mail, E-journals and e-Books compared to other e-resources.

The Table -3 shows the usage percentage distribution of the E-Database usage by the faculty and research scholars in the central library of SRMIST.

Database		Faculty (N=40)	Research Scholars (N=80)	Total (N=120)
1	Scopus	36(90%)	74(92.5%)	110(91.66)
2	EBSCO	26(65%)	61(76.25%)	87(72.5)
3	J-Gate	15(37.5%)	15(18.75%)	30(25)
4	DELNET Databases	12(30%)	13(16.25%)	25(20.8)
5	D-Space	8(20%)	8(10%)	16(13.3)
6	NPTEL	26(65%)	15(18.75%)	41(34.16)
7	India Stat	12(30%)	7(8.75%)	19(15.8)
8	SCC Online	15(37.5)	15(18.75%)	29(24.16)
9	Remote X	28(70%)	5(6.25%)	33(27.5)
10	Grammarly	13(32.5%)	12(30%)	25(20.83)
11	Turnitin	23(57.5%)	64(80%)	87(72.5)
12	e-Shodhsindu	10(25%)	24(30%)	34(28.3)
13	Shodhganga	17(42.5)	68(85%)	85(70.83)
14	National Digital Library	24(60%)	51(63.75%)	75(62.5)

Figure-3 Use of E-Database subscribed by SRMIST



A=Scopus

B=Ebsco

C=JGate

D=Delnet

E=D-Space

F=NPTEL

G=IndiaSat

H=SCCOnline

I=RemoteX

J=Grammarly

K=Turnitin

L=e-shodhsindhu

M=Shodhganga

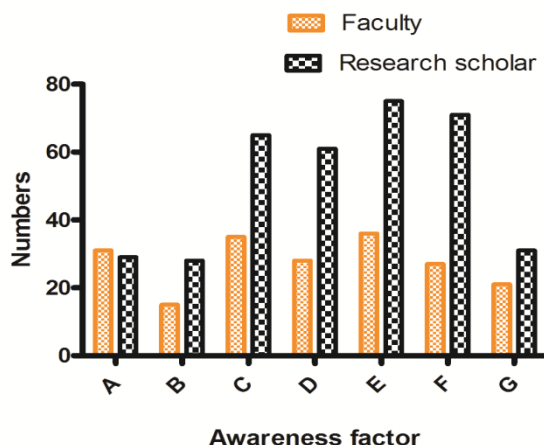
N-National Digital Library

It is clear that the maximum usage level from the respondents was Scopus Databases 91.6% followed by EBSCO 72.5 %, Turnitin 72.5 %, Shodhganga 70.8 %, and the other Databases such as NDL with 62.5%, NPTEL 34.1%, e-shodhsindhu 28.3%, RemoteX 27.5%, J-gate 25% SCC Online as 24.1%, Grammarly 20.83 %, DELNET 20.8 %, and the minimum usage of databases are D-space and India sat with less than 15%. It is visible from the data that there is a need and to take the necessary steps to improve and increase the usage of the e-resources subscribed by the central library and also usage was not up to the expected level from the respondent's of SRMIST.

Table 4 The awareness on the use of e-resources

Sl. No.	Awareness factor	Faculty (N=40)	Research Scholars (N=80)	Total (N=120)
1	Referred to me by the Librarian	31(77.5%)	29(36.25%)	60(50)
2	SRM Newsletter	15(37.5%)	28(35%)	43(35.8)
3	Library Monthly Update	35(87.5%)	65(81.25%)	100(83.3)
4	End User Training	28(70%)	61(76.25%)	89(74.1)
5	E-mail Alerts	36(90%)	75(93.75%)	111(92.5)
6	Through Friends	27(67.5%)	71(88.75%)	98(81.6)
7	Browsing	21(52.5%)	31(38.75%)	52(43.3)

Figure-4 Awareness factor



A=Referred to me by the Librarian

B= SRM Newsletter

C= Library Monthly Update

D= End User Training

E= E-mail Alerts

F= Through Friends

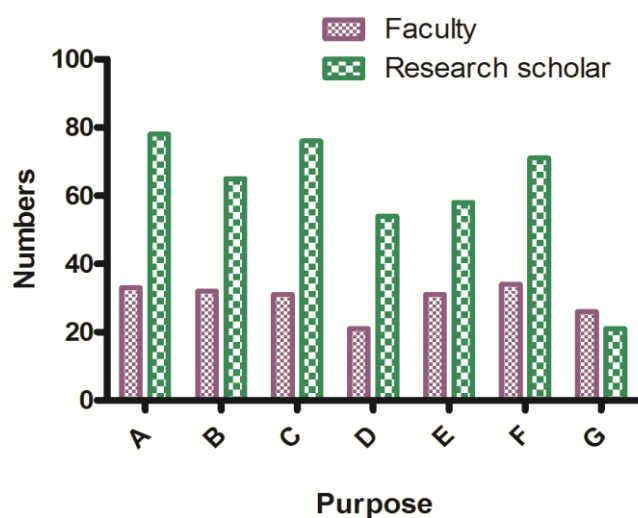
G= Browsing

From the Table -4 it is seen that about 92.5% of the respondents were well aware of e-resources through e-mail alerts followed by 83.3% by library monthly update and the next with 81.6% through friends, through end user training of 74.1 %, librarian reference as 50 %, through Browsing 43.3%, and eventually by SRM newsletter 35.8%. It observed from the data that more awareness is to be created to use the e-resources to utilize them at the maximum level.

The following table 5 given below will present the purpose of using the e-resources provided by the Institute

Sl.No	Purpose	Faculty (N=40)	Research Scholars (N=80)	Total (N=120)
1	Research activities	33(82.5%)	78(97.5%)	116(96.6)
2	Academic studies	32(80%)	65(81.25%)	97(80.8)
3	Preparing of articles for Publications	31(77.5%)	76(95%)	107(89.16)
4	Gathering Knowledge	21(52.5%)	54(67.5%)	75(62.5)
5	To keep abreast of current Information	31(77.5%)	58(72.5%)	94(78.3)
6	Writing Research Proposal	34(85%)	71(88.75%)	105(87.5)
7	For collecting general Information	26(65%)	21(26.25%)	47(39.1)

Figure-5 Purpose of using e-resources



A = Research activities

B = Academic studies

C = Preparing of articles for Publications

D = Gathering Knowledge

E = To keep abreast of current Information

F = Writing Research Proposal

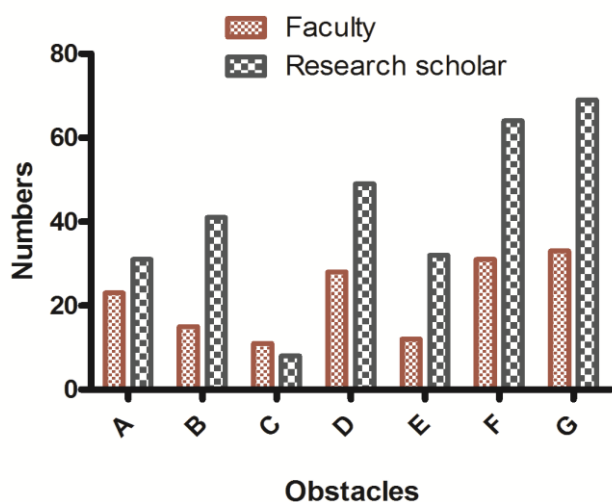
G = for collecting general Information

From the table -5 it shows the purpose of using e-resources by the respondents of SRMIST. The primary goal was the Research activities of about 96.6% and preparing articles for publications 89.16% and for writing research proposal 87.5 %, academic studies 80.8%, to keep the current information 78.3% and for gathering knowledge 62.5% and collecting the general information as 39.1%. Thus from the table -5 it is noticed that research and article preparation for publication plays a vital role for using the e-resources by the respondents.

Table 6. The obstacles confronted by the users while accessing and using the e-resources

Sl.No	Obstacles	Faculty (N=40)	Research Scholars (N=80)	Total (N=120)
1	Internet connectivity problem	23(57.5%)	31(38.75%)	54(45)
2	Payment delay in purchasing	15(37.5%)	41(51.25%)	56(46.6)
3	Lack of IT Knowledge	11(27.5%)	8(10%)	19(15.83)
4	The time delay in downloading and viewing	28(70%)	49(61.25%)	77(64.16)
5	Lack of assistance form staffs	12(30%)	32(40%)	44(36.6)
6	Coverage on e-resources is not suited in the related area	31(77.5%)	64(80%)	95(79.16)
7	Difficult to search the relevant information	33(82.5%)	69(86.25%)	102(85)

Figure-6



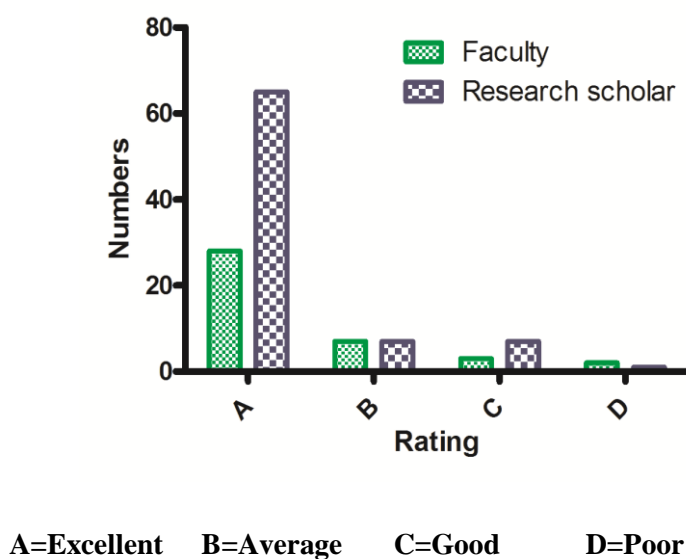
A= Internet Connectivity Problem B = Payment delay in purchasing
C= Lack of IT Knowledge D = The time delay in downloading and viewing
E= Lack of assistance form staffs F = Coverage on e-resources is not suited in the related area
G=Difficult to search the relevant information

Table -6 shows the obstacles faced by the respondents while using e-resources. About 85% of respondents feel that the major problem is to search the relevant information and around 79.6% sense the coverage on e-resources is not suited in the related area and The time delay in downloading and viewing 64.1%, followed by the other reasons as payment delay (46.6%) and internet connectivity (45%), lack of assistance from staffs (36.6%), lack of IT knowledge 19% . Therefore there is a need to reduce the obstacles and increase the usage.

The percentage level of satisfaction by the users in accessing the-resources

Rating	Faculty (N=40)	Research Scholars (N=80)	Total (N=120)
Excellent	28(70%)	65(81.25%)	93(77.5)
Average	7(17.5%)	7(8.75%)	14(11.6)
Good	3(7.5%)	7(8.75)	10(8.3)
Poor	2(5%)	1(1.25%)	3(2.5)

Figure-7Level of satisfaction by the users in accessing the-resources



The satisfaction level by using the e-resources is summarized in the table -7. The data clarifies that the satisfaction level of the respondents is maximum. Majority of the users rated as Excellent (77.5 %), followed by Average (11.6 %), Good (8.3%) and (Poor 2.5%). From this, it is revealed that the maximum respondents were satisfied with the e-resources subscribed by SRMIST.

Discussion and Conclusion

The study shows that the e-resources provided by SRMIST plays an important role in research activities and also at the academic level. The study shows that respondents not only need the current resources they should also be provided with significant back runs as well. With the changing environment of the education system, an electronic resource has gained global importance. So more effective management of information technology and more feasibility and availability of latest equipment and modern infrastructure is to be arranged to the library so that the benefits of e-resources can be availed fully when a supporting and enabling environment is created to the users.

In the present digitalized world e-resources are considered to be very important in functioning libraries. These e-resources need to be appropriately utilized. The endurance of academic organizations mainly depends upon the research activities. These activities can be fulfilled only when they properly use the e-resources and services. From the findings, it is clear that most of the objectives have been accomplished in this study. It is found that the faculty and the research scholars responding to the survey reveal a good deal of interest in using e-resources. The purpose of the respondents in using the e-resources focuses mainly on research activities. This study identified problems faced by the respondents while using the e-resources including that they found challenging to search the relevant information and

coverage of e-resources is not suited in that related area. The respondents are very well satisfied. The institution is spending a significant amount of money in subscribing the e-resources, and the users should be aware of available e-resources and familiar with the latest search technique for optimum utilization of available electronic information resources.

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